

# THE CALCUTTA JOURNAL

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General Summary of News.

[No. 179.]

In the Number of the Asiatic Journal for April, which reached us yesterday by the Grenville, we have met with a very full and interesting Report of the Debate at the East India House, on the subject of the Vote of Thanks to Sir Thomas Hislop, and the consideration of the execution of the Kildedar at Talneir. The result of this has already been before the Public through the medium of the English Papers,—but the Debate itself, to the length at which it appears before us, is quite new; and we know the feelings of the Indian Army, among whom we rank by far the largest portion of our friends, too well, not to be sensible that they will be very warmly interested in all the details.

The length of it has induced us to omit other European matter for the day, rather than break its continuity, or take from the portion allotted to our Correspondence and Asiatic intelligence; and we hope too that the greater portion of our readers will be equally ready to forgive us for this also.

We proceed therefore to the Report in question, which is dated at the East India House, Feb. 4, 1819, and is as follows:

The general court assembled at the usual hour. The minutes of the business transacted on the preceding day having been read,

The CHAIRMAN (James Pattison, Esq.) acquainted the court, that it was met pursuant to adjournment, for the purpose of proceeding in the consideration of the official documents respecting the late military operations in India, and resolutions of thanks adopted in consequence by the court of directors; which documents and resolutions had been open at this house for the inspection of the proprietors since the 20th ult. He then directed the following resolution, relative to Sir Thomas Hislop, to be read by the clerk:—

“That the thanks of this court be given to Lieut. Genl. Sir Thomas Hislop, Bart. Grand Cross of the Bath, for his distinguished and successful services during the late campaign in India, and particularly in the battle of Mahidpore, fought on the 21st of December, 1817, by the forces under his immediate command, against the army of Mulhar Row Holkar, which terminated in a decisive and important victory.”

After some introductory observations from Messrs. HUME, DIXON, and BOSANQUET, with explanations between the Chairman, and the Speakers, Mr. HUME requested that the documents on which his observations were founded might be read.

The first of these was the Copy of a Despatch from Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Hislop to the Governor General and Commander in Chief, dated Camp at Talneir, 28th March, 1818. As this has been already before the Indian Public, and details the events already known to them, it will not be necessary to repeat it.

The next document was a letter from the Marquis of Hastings to Lieut. General Sir Thomas Hislop, dated Camp near the Goguer, March 29, 1818, as follows:

“I have the honour to acknowledge your Excellency's communication of your having taken the fortress of Talneir. The vigour and policy of your determination to reduce that place, must necessarily meet my praise; it is an additional proof of the judicious energy which has marked your Excellency's conduct throughout this service. That such valuable men as those who fell on the occasion should have perished through an act of atrocious perfidy, augments my sorrow at their loss. Painful as it was to your Excellency to exercise severity in such a case, you have the consolation of being satisfied that you have, by such an example, diminished the probability of much wanton waste of blood in future.”

Mr. HUME here observed, that it would be fair to state, that there was another letter from the Marquis of Hastings, of the 3d of April, also approving of this act; and, as it was but just that every thing he knew of, in favour of Gen. Hislop should be laid before the court, he requested that it might be read.—It was as follows:

“I have already, in my dispatch, No. 21, of the 29th March, had the honour to convey to your Excellency my approbation of your proceedings at Talneir. I have learned, with much satisfaction, from your dispatch of the 7th March, the submission of the remaining fortresses ceded by Holkar, in Candish: a result which has undoubtedly been materially produced by the example justly and wisely made by your Excellency of the garrison of Talneir.”

The other documents read were—1. a Proclamation issued by Sir Thomas Hislop, on the 1st of March, the day after the Surrender of Talneir—2. Extract of a Despatch from the Governor General to Mr. Secretary Adams, dated Gayerpore, March 17, 1818—3. Proceedings of a Native General Court Martial held on the trial of the Kildedar or Mundiah, tending to show what had taken place in this quarter under circumstances nearly similar to those of Talneir, by which Court Martial the Kildedar was acquitted,—and 4. Extract of a Report from Lieut. Colonel McDowell to the Adjutant General, dated Mallygaum, June 17, 1818, showing that Colonel McDowell had engaged to sign a paper in the name of the Government, engaging that the

garrison of that place should not be put to death, in order to remove an impression which prevailed throughout Candish of the treachery of the British character.

The papers having been gone through,

Mr. HUME said, if any gentleman in the court wished that other documents should be produced, he could assure him that he was not aware of the existence of any beyond those that had been read that bore upon the question. If there were, either within or without the bar, any extracts or extracts which any proprietor present thought necessary to the elucidation of the subject, he was anxious that they should be read, before he proceeded to make his statement.

Having paused for a short time, and no person offering, Mr. HUME continued. Taking it, he said, for granted, that there were no other documents useful to explain this case except those that had been read, he hoped he would be allowed to state, that in submitting to the court his observations respecting that unfortunate act, which the documents had so distinctly proved, he was most anxious to guard himself against any imputations whatever that might be cast upon him by the friends of the gallant officer whose conduct was now under consideration. As he had before stated, he had endeavoured, with assiduity and careful research, to make himself master, not only of those public dispatches which related to the transaction, but he had also been at considerable pains to obtain private information respecting it; and he had in consequence, been favoured with the sight of several letters from men high in rank in which it mentioned. He had one private letter from Sir T. Hislop himself in his possession, written five weeks after the event took place, some part of which would, he conceived, be material in guiding the opinion of the court. Independent of his own personal knowledge of Gen. Hislop (which he admitted, was very little indeed), many of his (Mr. Hume's) particular friends, for whose opinion he entertained the highest respect (to whose sentiments, on all occasions, he paid the greatest attention, and some of them who had served in the field with and under this gallant officer) gave him a most excellent and humane character, and spoke in the most favourable terms of his general conduct. These circumstances rendered the task he had undertaken peculiarly unpleasant; but a public duty was to be performed, and all other considerations must give way to that. He was the more anxious to say this, because by a most extraordinary coincidence of circumstances, it happened to be his lot, some time since, to challenge (because he considered it as highly wasteful and unjust) a grant of £3,000, which the Court of Directors had voted to Gen. Hislop, for alleged loss of baggage in the capture of the Java frigate; and he was then fortunate enough, by ballot, to carry the question against the appropriation of that sum to the use of the gallant officer. This strange coincidence might lead some persons to suppose that he had an enmity to Gen. Hislop, that the present was a double attack on that gallant officer, and that the whole was dictated by a sort of pique, and was not the offspring of public spirit. But, so far from this being the case, he declared solemnly, that chance, and chance only, had thrown the duty on him, and he, as a proprietor regularly attending and taking a part in the discussions of that court, could not therefore pass over the present transaction in silence. If he had consulted his own private feelings, if he had attended to the earnest desire which he felt to conciliate many of his friends, who were also friends of the gallant officer, he would not have taken up the subject; but, had he pursued such a course, he must have abandoned that respect which he owed to his own feelings of duty, and which was due also to the great body of proprietors, who had not, perhaps, the same time to give to those subjects. He would state to the court one grand reason which urged him to bring this question forward. An hon. director whom he now saw (Mr. Grant), and an hon. proprietor (Mr. D. Kinnaird) not now in his place, stated, on the preceding day, and it was echoed through the whole court, that the British government in India was founded on opinion. Upon what opinion, he should like to know? The opinion of good faith, of strict honour, of scrupulous attention to justice in all our dealings with the natives? (Hear, hear!) He found no fault with what those hon. gentlemen had said. Their empire, he admitted, was, in a great degree, founded on public opinion; and the moment the British name was severed from the idea of faith and honour, and coupled with that of perfidy and violence, the British empire would be seen to totter. To this unusual and transcendent character had the British arms chiefly owed their powerful authority and their brilliant success. Had we not been more depended on by the natives than they could depend on each other, all our attempts at disunion, all our efforts to subdue and govern, never could have broken and divided that empire as it was now broken and divided. This being the chief reason of our success in India, it was the more necessary for the safety of that empire that the British should always maintain that character for good faith, for probity, and for clemency, by which they had long been distinguished, and which had produced such advantageous results. Believing that this act, as detailed by the gallant General himself, had operated very unfavourably in that country, particularly in Candish; being able to prove, from the documents just read, that

a British officer, in consequence of General Hislop's conduct, had been obliged to stoop "to pledge his and his government's faith not to hang men who surrendered to their arms," to an act before unknown in the British annals—being confident that this breach of faith, as he must certainly call it, on the gallant General's own showing, had wrought the most fatal effects on the public opinion in that country, the court could not, he thought, without utterly compromising and losing sight of that nice regard to character which it had always heretofore evinced, agree to that unqualified vote of thanks which was now submitted to them. He should therefore, before he sat down, propose a qualification as an amendment to it. Having served for some time in the Indian army, and being well acquainted with the noble sentiments that filled the bosom of every officer in that country, he would not be discharging the duty which he owed to his gallant fellow campaigners, if he did not say, knowing their generous feelings, that he believed scarcely another officer could be found in India who would have suffered himself to act as Sir Thos. Hislop had done. The British army was heretofore proverbially distinguished, as much for temperance and moderation in the hour of victory, as for energy and bravery in the hour of battle. (*Hear, hear!*) It was most unfortunate for its fame that this charge should now be made. The duty of originating and supporting it he felt to be exceedingly unpleasant, but it was an imperative public duty, and he would faithfully fulfil it. He could not, however, do this, without putting the court, in a very few words, into possession of the details of this unfortunate transaction. The consequence of the victory of Mahidpore, gained on the 21st Dec., was a treaty of peace with Holkar, signed on the 5th or 6th of Jan. following. By one of the articles of that treaty, a number of forts, south of the Soopara hills, were ceded to the British government. One of these was the fortress of Talneir, on the north part of Candeish, and near the banks of the Tapty river. Sir Thos. Hislop being furnished after the treaty, by Holkar, with proper orders for the surrender of those forts, in his progress with the army southward, he very properly determined quietly to take possession of those which offered no opposition, and of reducing, by force, any that dared to resist.

Having arrived before Talneir on the 27th of Feb., armed with all the authority that Holkar could give him, namely, an order directed to the commander of the garrison, desiring him to give it up, the General sent word to the Killedar to be ready to surrender the fort the next morning. Here it must be observed that Gen. Hislop did not state in his dispatch, or had he (Mr. Hume) been able to discover, whether he sent in to the Killedar along with this message, "the chor chitty," or order of Holkar for delivering up the fortress. That was the only power which permitted the surrender on the part of the commander, and if it were not exhibited, the authority was not sufficient to call on the Killedar to open the gates of the fort, for no soldier who was faithful and understood his duty, when placed in charge of a post, would yield it up to a mere *ipse dixit*. Such conduct would be base and dishonourable, and wholly at variance with the sacred trust reposed in him. If that order had not been sent to the Killedar, he could not, when he refused to surrender the fort, be fairly charged with rebelling against his master. Indeed he might have conceived the summons to be a mere *ruse de guerre*, a trick to gain possession of a valuable post. They all know that such plans had been sometimes successfully resorted to, in warfare on the continent of Europe. By a scheme of that kind he believed one or two fortified places in Spain had been taken possession of, and certainly it might be considered all fair in war. The Killedar, however, returned no answer, and on the following morning, the 28th Feb., General Hislop sent a second message, again desiring him to surrender. Here, also, it was necessary to observe that it did not appear whether the general transmitted the order by the second messenger. It did appear, however, by the General's statement, that the message was delivered, but the Killedar delayed giving an answer. By this it would be seen, that a message, and not a letter, had been sent: a circumstance which, of itself, in the opinion of some persons, would render the charge against the Killedar as completely untenable as it was unfairly brought. At eight o'clock General Hislop proceeded in his preparations to attack the place. He was correct in doing so, because, with such a force as he commanded, he ought not to waste even an hour, much less a day. Finding that the Killedar would not surrender, he ordered some guns to take off the defences of the fort, and a storming party to hold themselves in readiness, as near the fort as he possibly could. The Killedar, alarmed at these preparations, and seeing that resistance was vain, sent out to know what terms would be granted. The answer was, "You and your garrison must surrender unconditionally." "Then" said the Killedar, "I will surrender unconditionally." If they called to mind what had occurred at different sieges of Malligaum, under Colonel McDowell, or if they reflected on that conduct of the Arabs who formed the escort of the Peishwa, they might easily conceive the difficulty which the unfortunate Killedar of Talneir might have experienced in endeavouring to make the Arabs consent to an unconditional surrender. He thought every thing that General Hislop himself said must lead them to the conclusion, that the delay which took place in giving up the fort was occasioned by the obstinacy of the Arabs. But, supposing the delay arose from a reluctance on the part of the Killedar to give up the fortress that had been entrusted to him, could he be blamed for retaining his post, if he were ignorant whether the order for surrender was genuine and regular or false and counterfeit? As some delay took place after the Killedar stated that he was ready to give up the fort and garrison unconditionally, and as the day declined, General Hislop very properly ordered a party to advance. At the outer gate not a single man was molested. The wickets were open, and the whole party entered quietly. The second gate was quite open, and they passed through. At the third gate, the governor, who had agreed to surrender, met them, accompanied by several bany-

ans, or native merchants, who, in the east, were the principal men in the different villages. Whether those banyans had been forced into the fortress the night before, or had sought refuge there, being apprehensive of a hostile attack, was to be ascertained. The latter was the more probable, as, being men of considerable property, it was natural enough for them to seek protection in the fort. The Killedar came out, and without hesitation surrendered himself as he had promised, unconditionally, to Lieutenant-Col. Conway, Adjt.-Gen. of the army. Lieut.-Col. Conway (as he was able to learn from the private letter of Sir Thomas Hislop already alluded to) immediately sent him to the Commander-in-chief, who placed him in charge of the provost-marshal.

The CHAIRMAN—"I rise to order. The hon. proprietor must see that he is travelling out of the records on table."

Mr. ELPHINSTONE—"The honorable proprietor professes to give the court a detail of the circumstances stated in the documents that have been laid before the court, but I will venture to say, it is not a very correct one."

Mr. R. JACKSON—"My hon. friend is perfectly at liberty to read the letter as part of his speech, but I admit it would be better if public documents only were referred to. I may, however, be allowed to say, that my hon. friend meant only to have read that part of the letter which was highly favorable to this officer."

Mr. HUME continued—I was desirous by the private letter to shew the favorable part of the transaction, but I shall refrain from doing so. The troops advanced (the Killedar had done every thing in his power, by an unconditional surrender, to give them possession of the fort), and they passed through the fourth gate without interruption. At the fifth gate, though the wickets were open, there was a party of Arabs behind them still demanding terms. Some of the advanced party entered the wickets. How the hostilities began, the dispatches do not inform us. On that, as on several other points, they were wholly uninformed; but it appeared that many of the party who entered the fifth gate, leading to the body of the fort, were killed and wounded. His charge against General Hislop, for his subsequent conduct, was most grave and serious, for the garrison of Arabs within, might have attacked the party without the knowledge, consent, or connivance of the Killedar, who afterwards was made the victim of their crime! He admitted that the Arabs might be treacherous in the highest degree; but they were all put to the sword. As far as they were concerned, if they had behaved treacherously, they met the punishment due to their treachery: not a man, they were told, escaped; they were all put to death. (*Hear, hear!*) But the treatment of the governor, as the circumstances now appeared, was most unjustifiable. Why should the General sacrifice an individual, situated as the governor was, who had done his duty to the utmost of his power, who had surrendered himself on the generosity and mercy of the British army? (*Hear, hear!*) This governor, against whom no charge appeared, was, after the storming of the place, ordered to be hanged on one of the bastions, under the express declaration, in the dispatch of Sir Thomas Hislop, which had been read to the court, that he was executed without the individual who decreed his death knowing or inquiring whether he was guilty or innocent!!! Such was the fact, such the detail of the whole transaction: and it was on account of this horrible event, that he called on the court to withhold its meed of praise from Gen. Hislop, great as his deserts in other respects might be (and he was ready to admit that they were great) until the time should come when he could clear himself from the imputation of rashness or cruelty. (*Hear, hear!*) All he asked was, and he thought he had a right to ask it, that the court should suspend its unequalled thanks, until the period arrived when there should be an official examination into this affair. (*Hear, hear!*) If the grounds he had stated was not sufficient to induce the court to pause until a proper explanation was given he had two other considerations to submit to them, which he thought, as they respected the treatment of the Killedar, demanded particular attention; first what was the practice of modern warfare: and secondly, what was the custom of civilized Europe on such occasions? With respect to the former, he referred the court to documents lying on the table, and which had been read to them. He alluded to the order of the Governor-Gen., dated in March, 1813, and the trial, by a native court martial, of the Killedar of Mundlah, on the 27th of April 1818. These documents sufficiently marked the opinion of the Governor-Gen. with respect to the course that should be adopted towards rebels, whether taken in flight or with arms in their hands. It could not make against the Killedar, who had surrendered himself, that the garrison of Talneir were taken with arms in their hands! But the same thing occurred at Mundlah, and treachery was there practised against the British. But notwithstanding this, the Governor-Gen. said "Try the rebels by court martial, and, if they are found guilty, for the first offence imprison them and keep to hard labour; but if they are detected again in treachery, punish them with death." It was because Gen. Hislop had not tried the Killedar, to have proved his guilt of the charges made against him, that he conceived him to have erred against the almost general rule of the service. He believed there could not be found in the military transactions of India for the last fifty years, one instance of this description.

If there had been such, he had never heard of it; and, for twenty-five years past, he knew of nothing having occurred that was in any degree similar to it. The only case he recollected to have heard of, where quarter was refused to those who surrendered, that could in any way be compared with the scene acted at Talneir, was the storming of Ismael, an event that excited general horror and indignation throughout Europe, as much for the numbers as the way in which they were slain. With respect to their affairs in India, nothing of this kind, he hoped, until the present time, had ever disgraced and dishonoured them. As to the law of nations, he would imme-

diately show, from the highest authority, that the act was completely at variance with it. In that law, as laid down by a very able writer, for the treatment of prisoners of war, an exception to the general rule was admitted, with respect to the putting individuals to death after their surrender; but he submitted that General Hislop's act did not come within the scope of that exception. The writer to whom he alluded was Vattel, who stated very clearly what the law in such cases should be. "We cannot," said he, "with justice take the life of an enemy submitting and delivering his arms." But to this there was an exception, which he would state to the court, if it could guide the proprietors in their decision. This then was the exception:—"When the enemy has been guilty of some enormous breach of the law of nations, and particularly if it be at the same time a violation of the laws of war." This was the only case where life might be taken from an enemy, and quarter refused to him; that was, Vattel stated, "where an enormous breach of the law of nations, and of the law of war, had been committed." This denial of quarter is no part of the law of war, but the penalty of the offending party's crime; but, to be just, it must fall on the guilty alone. If care be not taken it may visit the innocent, and, by this rigour, the law of humanity is infringed. "But," he continues, "whenever severity is not absolutely necessary, clemency is to be used." This was an extract that in some degree applied to the present case; but even there they were told, that when severity was not absolutely necessary, clemency ought to be adopted: and he would ask if the execution of the governor at Talneir, after his surrender, was a case of absolute necessity; it did not appear to be so, which left the act committed by Sir Thomas Hislop without any support. Vattel said, in another place, "there are circumstances, when your safety is incompatible with the existence of an enemy, that will justify your destroying him; which puts it out of all question that in cold blood a great number of prisoners may be put to death." But it must be inquired whether they were promised their lives, or left open to such a sacrifice. It was only the great necessity of the case that could justify such an execution. Thus, Henry V. at the battle of Agincourt was obliged, in self-preservation, to put his prisoners to death, lest they should rise and overwhelm him. Again, Vattel said, "only enormous offences are to be punished in this severe manner; and when rigour is not of absolute necessity, it is always beautiful to listen to the voice of humanity and clemency." Now could we, with the case that had been stated, coolly place our hands on our hearts and say, that the case of the Killedar was the case of that absolute and pressing necessity as would justify a departure from all the rules of humanity and the uniform practice of our own country? (*Hear, hear!*) Was the safety of the British army and of their General depending on the life of this unfortunate man? (*Hear, hear!*) He hoped it was not harsh or unfair, to say, that there appeared nothing in the case to bring it within any one of these exceptions. He had stated those exceptions fairly; if they could apply, he, had he flattered himself, shewn that none of them could be applied to the act committed by the orders of Gen. Hislop, and he was sure that, having done so, it was not unreasonable in him to request the court, under these circumstances, to acquiesce in his suggestion, and suspend this unqualified vote of thanks, until the whole of the facts were before them. He would state the case of an officer, who for 24 years had served this country faithfully, had shed his blood in her defence, and had received the thanks of the legislature for his gallant conduct. In the 25th year of his service, it is discovered that he had cheated his men of some small allowances of money for coal, candle, or any other allowances. He is tried, and although his services, during a quarter of a century, may be urged in extenuation of this paltry offence; although those services were fairly stated, and duly considered, yet by the rules of the service this would avail him little; he would be condemned and dismissed the service. Such was the rigid law of war. Now, if military law would carry a court to what seemed an excess of punishment to any otherwise most meritorious officer, was it much for him to ask, where there was such an apparent direction of duty in Gen. Hislop, that they should suspend until a future opportunity this general and unqualified vote of thanks and approbation to an officer, the whole of whose case was not yet before them? In acting thus, he hoped he was doing nothing but what tended to preserve the character of the court, and the honour and reputation of their military establishment. Let it be recollected, also, what the consequences of this act had been. Let it not be forgotten, that a gallant officer, at the head of a strong detachment, had taken, after a noble defence, the fort of Malligaum, having found himself obliged, previous to its surrender, to sign a paper, pledging his honour and the honour of government that he would not put the garrison to death in cold blood! Yet, according to the proclamation of General Hislop, of the 1st March, the day after the storm of Talneir, every man of the garrison of Malligaum was liable to the penalty of death; for the gallant General had told the whole of the people of Candeish, coolly and quietly, that every man who refused to submit at once to his new masters should suffer death! His was, therefore, he would contend, a deliberate act; and as it bore that complexion, they would be highly criminal if they thanked General Hislop, so long as any doubt remained of the nature of the transaction. But, in the dispatch of Colonel M'Dowell, which they heard read, the result of Gen. Hislop's conduct was placed in the clearest point of view. Talneir was a fort in the north of Candeish, and Malligaum was in that province also. Col. M'Dowell was employed to reduce this latter garrison, and, such was the prevailing opinion of our want of faith in the country, such was the effect produced by General Hislop's conduct at Talneir, that he was obliged, in order to terminate the siege, to put his signature to a declaration derogatory to the honour of the company, because it implied a suspicion of their integrity. (*Hear, hear!*)

Let the court attend to the words of Col. M'Dowell: "Finding," said he, "that treachery on our part was suspected, and wishing to do away a report all over Candeish so prejudicial to our character, I did not hesitate in signing a paper, declaring, in the name of my government, that the garrison should not be put to death after they surrendered!"

Now if he could gather any thing from dispatches, this report of their bad faith, this statement of their perfidy, this suspicion which appeared to haunt the minds of the inhabitants of Candeish, that men were hanged by the British after they had surrendered, must be set down to the account of the unfortunate occurrence which took place under the eye of Gen. Hislop at Talneir. (*Hear, hear!*) Was it not lamentable to think that a high-minded and gallant officer should thus be obliged to put his hand to a paper, to pledge the honour of the Company, to pledge the honour of the Indian government, that they would not hang individuals after they had surrendered, and thrown themselves on the once-entrusted humanity of British soldiers. (*Hear, hear!*) He stated this circumstance as one of the most serious facts of the case; but if he followed Gen. Sir J. Malcolm through his able and interesting dispatch of June, respecting the surrender of the Peishwa, he could find still more matter for comment. In that dispatch he stated that the Peishwa was afraid of treachery, yes, of treachery from those who were never before suspected, and therefore it was that he declined, for a considerable time, to surrender. But he put faith in Sir J. Malcolm; he knew that he was as sincere as he was brave, and in his hands the Peishwa placed his life, without feeling any apprehension. That this was the fact was most evident, for the fugitive was hunted from place to place by numerous parties. Gens. Doveton and Smith endeavoured in vain, by most active and arduous pursuits for months, to capture him. The Peishwa flew from these gentlemen. Did he think that these gentlemen would act as Gen. Hislop had done? Certainly he had his doubt and fears!—The fact was, he knew Sir John Malcolm, and he felt that if he once pledged his honour his safety was perfectly secured; to him, therefore, he came, and surrendered, neither agitated by fear nor suspicion. Now if the circumstances which he had related were not highly detrimental to their honour and to their arms in India, he was utterly at a loss in what light to view this case. He knew not but that the transaction might be in some way explained; and he sincerely hoped it might; but, in the mean time, he called on the Proprietors not to commit themselves to the country and the world. Could the Court of Directors and Proprietors so far forget their honour and dignity, as to be the first to acknowledge, and thereby encourage, a breach of those laws which all civilised nations held to be sacred? (*Hear, hear!*) Would they do so particularly at the present time, when the character of America was trembling in the balance, on account of a somewhat similar transaction? (*Hear, hear!*) Could they lightly look over the conduct of General Hislop, when every man was scanning the proceedings of America, with respect to the case of Arbuthnot and Ambrister? Let gentlemen, therefore, act prudently: let them not do any thing unjust towards the gallant officer, or unfair towards themselves; but steer a temperate middle course, and leave this vote to be decided on a future day! He begged to state another and a very strong reason for this postponement, this was not a solitary instance. In the newspapers there had lately been a report that Lieut. Sutherland, commanding a party of the Nizam's horse, had ordered two individuals of rank in the late Peishwa's army to be hanged after they were taken prisoners. (*Hear, hear!*) All he wanted to know was whether those persons had been tried by a court martial, or put to death as had been stated without trial? When instances of this kind were multiplying, they ought to be on their guard. Those persons were, it seemed, accused of having perpetrated, or of being privy to the murder of the Messrs. Vaughans, at the time of the Peishwa's defection. If they were guilty, he hoped they had suffered; but he hoped they had not been put to death in the informal way that was reported. With these remarks, and begging the Court to understand that he was not one of those, if any such there were, who would say that this transaction was not explainable, he would proceed to his amendment. He hoped, with great sincerity, that Gen. Hislop would have an opportunity, and would be able to explain; he, therefore, in requesting that the consideration of this vote should be postponed, did so, he would again repeat, that the Proprietors might not commit themselves by an unqualified vote of thanks. He trusted that the court would agree to the amendment he should propose, in the hope that whenever they obtained documents containing satisfactory information, sufficient, fairly and clearly, to explain the whole matter, they would then be called together, when they would be enabled to give a vote of thanks, which he hoped would receive, as all votes of this kind should, the unanimous assent of the Proprietors. (*Hear, hear!*) Great as was the honour derived from a vote of thanks, under most circumstances, yet it must lose much of its value in the eye of the person receiving it whenever difference of opinion appeared to prevail in this court. Without any personal feeling whatever, but deeply impressed by the important circumstances of the case in a public point of view, circumstances which he could not silently pass over, he had introduced this question. If it were a troublesome or an ungracious task, he could not blame any person for imposing it on him; he certainly, from a sense of duty, had brought it on himself. Anxious to do justice to the private character and public services of the gallant officer, he should now move, that all the words of the original motion, after the word 'that,' be omitted, and that the following be substituted.

"That it appears by a public dispatch from Lieut. General Sir T. Hislop, commander-in-chief at Fort St. George, to Marquis Hastings, dated 28th February 1818, before the fort of Talneir, and now submitted to the consideration of this court, that Tooleran Mania, the Killedar or governor, had been summoned, and had surrendered himself unconditionally to Lieut.

\* Vattel, B. 3 c. s. 141.

† Vattel, S. 151.

Colonel Conway, the Adjutant General of the army; and that, after the capture of the said fort, Lieut. General Sir T. Hislop had ordered the said Killedar to be publicly executed, without any previous trial as to his innocence or guilt of the charges alleged against him in the following extract from the Genl.'s dispatch: "The Killedar I ordered to be hanged on one of the bastions, immediately after the place fell. Whether he was accessory or not to the subsequent treachery of his men, his execution was a punishment justly due to his rebellion in the first instance, particularly after the warning he had received in the morning." That this court cannot therefore agree to any resolution with respect to the services and conduct of Lieut. General Sir T. Hislop during the late hostilities in India, until an explanation and exculpation is given to an act which appears to this court to be a gross breach of the laws of modern warfare and of civilized nations, and calculated to injure the British character for humanity and good faith."

Mr. S. DIXON, in rising to second the amendment, begged it to be understood that this was the first time of his having heard that such a proceeding was in contemplation. He did not come into court with any confirmed impression on the subject; and if any combination existed to oppose the vote of thanks, which he believed was not the case, he had nothing whatever to do with it. On this occasion, he came forward, he hoped, with those feelings which an Englishman need not blush to own. Whilst this particular transaction stood uncontradicted and unexplained, he, for one, would be free to say, that so far from acceding to a vote of thanks, he would, if he stood singly on the question, be proud to hold up his hand against the proposition.—(Hear, hear!)—It was but seldom he had the pleasure of agreeing with his hon. friends below him (Mr. Jackson and Mr. Hume,) but in his life he never heard an opening speech more free from rancour, more estranged from personal hostility, than that of the hon. mover; throughout his address, instead of exaggerating, he studied to soften down the conduct of Gen. Hislop; no friend could have introduced the subject with more kindness. An accuser (he could scarcely give his hon. friend that designation) generally made as strong a case as he possibly could; but his hon. friend had not done this, he had fairly detailed the case on both sides. He had stated, very correctly, that Sir T. Hislop had directed the Killedar to surrender a fort entrusted to his care; but here, no doubt unintentionally, he was mistaken in one point. The dispatch expressly set forth, that a letter was at first sent in, but that afterwards a mere verbal message was resorted to, by which the Killedar was informed that peace had been concluded with his master, and that Sir T. Hislop had an order from that master, commanding the governor to surrender the fort to the British forces. He was one of those who were ready to admit that the Killedar might have acted as he had done, conceiving that his conduct was perfectly right, and not meaning to do any thing unfair or indefensible. He would not allow the term rebel to be used towards him, because he refused to obey the orders of a master of whom he knew nothing. In resisting that new master surely he could not be accused of being in rebellion against his old and acknowledged sovereign, and still less could he be accounted a rebel to the British government. They ought also to consider what situation he was in: whether he was acting under coercion, or from his own free will. The very terms of the communication proved, that he was within the absolute power of the British army. He would ask any gentleman connected with the British army or navy, whether, under such restraints, they would be willing to obey orders? He thought that, instead of being executed as a rebel, a man, owing his faithful service to a particular master, and fighting for him, even against the British government, deserved to be honoured and applauded. Had he remained in the body of the fort for the purpose of defending it, and hazarded his life on that issue, which soldiers were always prepared for when a place was stormed, then it would have been fair to have taken it. But the first entrance was not defended, for our troops entered by single files, which they could not have done had there been any opposition whatever. The second entrance was also open and unguarded, and at the third, the Killedar came out, not attended by armed followers, but by a number of *banyans*, who appeared to have abandoned every thing that could do injury or create alarm. They were, therefore, throwing themselves on the mercy and humanity of a British army.—(Hear, hear!)—He recollected a song, written by Mr. Dibdin, (whose songs, by the way, seemed in his opinion to have done almost as much service to humanity as all the sermons he had heard preached during his life) in which the following line occurred—

"We shew them that Britons but conquer to save!"

He hoped this character would last for ever, and that Britons would always be known by their humanity rather than by their severity. No man could be more deeply impressed with the importance of this subject than he was, for he was aware that the character of a soldier was more dear to him than life itself. When he was fighting abroad for his country, the most anxious wish of his heart was to find his conduct approved of at home. It was his chief solace, his greatest pleasure, amongst all his toils and dangers, to reflect, that if he signalized himself he was sure to receive the public thanks of a grateful people.—(Hear, hear!)—It made him happy to find that his countrymen still preserved their character for generosity, and were ready to give the honest meed of praise to those who had fairly earned it. He would, with as much pleasure as the nearest and dearest friend of Gen. Hislop could feel, go forward and give him most hearty commendation, were this question satisfactorily explained; but, under existing circumstances, until this impression was wholly removed, he, for one, could not assent to the original motion. He was not, however, bound by what he had said to withhold his vote even to the end of the day; for if a proper explanation could be given, he cared not from whom it came, he would join in giving to the vote of thanks all the weight he possibly could, but undoubtedly the cha-

acter of the Company demanded that the stain which at present appeared on that of Gen. Hislop should be cleared away. He would not go into a detail on the subject, as the hon. gentleman had saved him that trouble, and should merely content himself with supporting the amendment for the same reasons he had adduced. He must repeat, that if he were the nearest friend of Gen. Hislop, he would rather adjourn the question now, in the hope that at a proper period it would be unanimously carried, sooner than take it at the present moment, disfigured by even one dissenting voice.

The CHAIRMAN said, as he did not see any gentlemen disposed to rise, he should beg the indulgence of the court, while, in a few plain sentences, he delivered his opinion on the motion proposed. He considered the attempt to deprecate the prejudging of this case, on which point the hon. mover had so often touched, as completely illusory, because, if his proposition were carried, the question would that moment be most perfectly prejudged. The amendment, in fact, stated a verdict on the whole case. He would not read it over again, but he well knew that it went to the extent of criminating this hon. gent., whose name the mover had coupled throughout with the phrases of "gallant general," and "brave officer," terms that might be looked upon rather as words of reproach and dispragagement than as epithets of approbation, joined as they were with this conclusion, that Gen. Hislop was guilty of the crime with which he had been charged. He begged to draw the attention of the court to the predicament in which they would be placed if this amendment should be carried. Amongst the papers laid on their table was a letter from the governor general, expressly approving the line of conduct which Sir Thomas Hislop had adopted. He requested the particular attention of gentlemen to the date of that letter, which was the 29th of March, a great many days after the surrender of Talneir and the occurrence of this unfortunate event, for they must all allow that it was most unfortunate! What had happened in the interim?

The Governor-Gen. had given directions, it is true with respect to the course that should in future be pursued on similar occasions; namely, that individuals so circumstanced should be tried by a court martial, by whom their sentence was to be pronounced, but with no reference whatever to the conduct of Sir Thomas Hislop, which he had so distinctly approved. What was the inference then, which, under these circumstances, every unprejudiced mind would draw? What result could an ordinary understanding come to but this: that there were circumstances attached to this particular case, which, in the Governor-General's mind, made him consider it a proceeding, not only not worthy of his censure, but demanding the most decided approbation? (Hear, hear!) Had he given General Hislop that praise immediately, it might be supposed to have been extracted from him in a hasty and thoughtless moment. But it was not so, and to prove that fact, let the court look again at the date. The hon. mover might say, that the Governor-General had considered it proper, generally speaking, to adopt the system of holding courts martial in a variety of cases. That was very true, but he had afterwards most strongly expressed his approbation of this isolated transaction. Now, before they proceeded farther, it would be well to consider that they had yesterday voted their thanks unanimously to the Marquis of Hastings, who had approved of this very transaction. If, therefore, the present motion was not carried, they would in effect pass a censure on that noble Marquis and on themselves. (No! no! from Mr. Hume.) This would be the effect of the proceeding; they having on one day agreed to a vote of thanks to the noble Marquis, and on the following day absolutely and substantially rejecting it, by refusing to accede to a particular resolution on account of a transaction of which the noble Marquis had fully approved. The act, as it stood before them, was very deficient with reference to explanation; but if it were introduced to the court exactly as it had been introduced to the Governor-General, then they must come to one of two conclusions; either that the Governor-General's mind was actuated by principles different from those which impelled theirs, or else that he had grossly erred, that the vote of the general court was therefore "praise undeserved," which the poet justly described as "censure in disguise." He wished gentlemen, before they interrupted the regular proceedings of those whom the proprietors had selected as their organ, would pause a little, and give some degree of credit to the directors for honorable feeling and propriety of conduct. The circumstance which was made the ground-work of the amendment had not, indeed, it could not, have escaped them. The fact was, they viewed it with different feelings; they thought the time was come to give general thanks for the most important military achievements that had been effected since the period of Lord Clive, and they accordingly came forward with a series of well-considered resolutions. Could they, he wished to know, proceed forward a single step until this proposition was agreed to? Could they go on with the other resolutions, leaving this for a future day, without insulting the General who mainly assisted in achieving those victories which gentlemen had spoken of in such a strain of eulogium? Could they on this occasion discard him, who, in the only engagement that could be called a pitched battle, had crowned the British name with honor, by a most distinguished victory over their inveterate enemy Mulhar Row Holkar? (Hear, hear!) This was a case of a very peculiar nature; and he believed he stated the sense of the court to a certain extent, when he said, that if those gent., who had an entire night in their chambers to consider of this unfortunate business, had come forward and said, "We will not refuse our assent to a general vote of thanks, reserving to ourselves the right of future inquiry into this 'particular case,' many of the gentlemen behind the bar, himself at least, would have met them with open arms; though, to the eye of prejudice, something might seem apparently unfavourable in their conduct, because they did not bring this circumstance particularly under the notice of the proprietors: but their not having done so arose from no sinister motive, it was occasioned by their having taken a specific view of the subject.

With respect to the vote of thanks which was justly due to this gallant commander, they were willing that it should pass, with a fair and honourable reserve, that this transaction should be subject matter of future consideration. He feared he did not make much impression on the court, but he spoke from strong feeling. He could not bear that an amendment of this nature, dishonouring and discouraging for the remainder of his life a gentleman who had done the Company great service, should be suffered to disgrace the court. He used strong language, and he knew it would not please the hon. mover. They had been made friends yesterday, and he hoped they would continue so. The manner in which the hon. proprietor had brought forward this question might, he conceived, have been improved. It would have been much better if he had contended himself with taking the dispatches as they stood, for the basis of his amendment, instead of telling the story over again in his own words, and by that means enhancing and giving a stronger view of this most unfortunate occurrence. There were, in these resolutions, the names of Hastings and Hislop. The noble Marquis had approved of his conduct, and it ought to be understood, that he would not have resolved on such a measure as this, without consulting some of the officers who were serving with him. Here, then, was a whole division of the army implicated in one transaction. He would, therefore, go the length of entreating hon. gentlemen, for the sake of their own honour and that of the court, to suffer the motion to pass, leaving to future consideration any measures that might appear objectionable.

Mr. HUME said, that no very good reason, and certainly not much conciliation, was offered to induce him to withdraw his amendment. It was called dishonourable and disgraceful, expressions which he was not accustomed to hear; such words as these sounded rather harshly after the recent peace, of which the hon. chairman had spoken, and which he had hoped would have remained for some time inviolate. Phrases which were calculated to hurt the feelings of any gentleman certainly should not fall from the chair. He spoke warmly; but when a man was stung, it was natural for him to do so. He now begged to remind the court, that he had, before he entered on the subject matter of his speech, called on the hon. directors to suggest, if possible, some plan, some middle course, by which all parties would be united. The invitation was then refused. Now, however, it appeared the hon. chairman was anxious that such a course should be taken, and he certainly had not any objection.

The CHAIRMAN said, the hon. proprietor had mistaken him. He gave him credit for his motion, and the manly and open manner in which he had brought it forward. He certainly thought, however, that the adoption of it would be a disgrace to the court. These words were not meant in the smallest degree to reflect upon him. He would make no recantation of them; since, in whatever he said, he had only in view the performance, to the best of his power, of a great public duty, and not a design to offend any person.

Mr. DIXON—"I hope the hon. chairman's explanation extends to me also." (A laugh.)

The CHAIRMAN—"I would willingly pay tribute to that hon. proprietor, but he stated, very distinctly, that he had not seen the amendment, and knew nothing about it, which placed him out of the reach of my attack. If, however, he chose to father a child which he never saw before, I hope the hon. proprietor will not taken it amiss when I say that it is far from being the handsomest that ever was adopted."

Mr. HUME begged to state, that he and his learned friend were prepared to have met the chairman and the hon. directors in any way they might have ventured to suggest, short of giving an unqualified assent to the original motion. To prove this, he had left it to his learned friend to draw up an amendment that would meet the occasion. Such would always be the case, where friendship and kindness prevailed instead of petulance and re-creation. He was ready now to withdraw his amendment, and leave the matter in the hands of his learned friend, who would produce another which he had no doubt would meet the sense of the court.

Mr. S. DIXON was perfectly satisfied. There appeared to be but one opinion in that court on the question of the military achievements of General Hislop. He was ready to give them every praise, and as they were not asked to bind themselves to the whole of his conduct, he had no objection to the passing of the resolution, a proper qualification being introduced, in order to leave open for future consideration the transaction at Talneir.

Mr. ELPHINSTONE did not think that the hon. proprietor (Mr. Dixon) could have read the motion then before the court. It was a resolution of thanks for mere military service, and did not touch on any thing else: yet, strange to say, he seconded an amendment, without knowing how far it agreed with, or departed from the original motion. After what had occurred this day, and the various speeches they had heard, he knew not in what situation they left this gallant and unfortunate gentleman. At one moment he was praised, and the next he was abused, as a man would step back for the purpose of striking a harder blow. Could any one, he wished to know, heap more abuse on another, than the two gentlemen (Mr. Hume and Mr. Dixon) poured on General Hislop in the course of their speeches? and all this was done when there was not a sufficiency of information before them to enable them to judge fairly or correctly. If he had acted in the way gentlemen had been pleased to state, then he was no longer fit to be employed in the Company's service, and they might dismiss him; but with his situation in the King's service they had nothing to do. But where was the evidence of his guilt? A great deal might now be said in favour of General Hislop; but another time would answer much better, when there was proper information before the court. He always heard General Hislop

spoken of, as a humane good man, and he could not sit quietly and hear the character of an absent individual torn to pieces. It was the height of cruelty to prejudice a man's case particularly when the vote had nothing whatever to do with the question that had been started. It did not touch on it at all. The gallant officer ought to have been suffered to receive the thanks of the court, without any of the acrimonious observations that had been made. The motion did not interfere with the course of justice; for if any accusation was made against General Hislop, it would be heard and decided precisely as if no resolution had passed. When he arrived in this country he must call for a court of inquiry; then, if he were innocent, he would be applauded, if guilty, punished. The resolution would not screen him from the visitation he deserved if he were guilty, then why should it be withheld? The hon. director called on the gentlemen who made those attacks to place themselves in the same situation as that in which General Hislop now stood, and consider how they would like to receive similar treatment. If they once turned the matter seriously in their mind, they would feel how cruel it was to assassinate the character of a man, who, for fifty years, had borne an honourable name.

The CHAIRMAN—"I consider that the hon. proprietors are desirous to withdraw the motion."

Mr. S. DIXON—"Yes, it being understood that that part of General Hislop's conduct relative to Talneir is still farther open to investigation, if it be thought fit."

The CHAIRMAN—"Perhaps it would be as well to withdraw it without condition, and to trust to the turn the debate had taken to secure the ulterior object."

Mr. HUME—"My learned friend will propose a qualification."—(Call of "question")

The CHAIRMAN—"I ask leave to withdraw the amendment."

Mr. HUME—"Gentlemen are calling for question, and I am very ready to have it put. It is in the power of the gentlemen behind the bar to put it to the question, if they are so inclined."—(Cries of "withdraw!")

Mr. GRANT said, no doubt the question now before the court was open to animadversion, and might either be put from the chair, or, what appeared to be the more general wish, might be withdrawn through courtesy. Under these circumstances, he thought they could not proceed with too much care and deliberation. He must confess it appeared to him, though he meant not to impugn his motives, that the hon. mover had pursued a wrong course and had mistaken the proper mode of proceeding. He had stated the case as an advocate, and decided on it as a judge would have done, at the very moment in which he proposed that it should be subject to future investigation. He conceived the proper course would be this, and it ought to be managed with all the delicacy imaginable: let it be distinctly understood that this part of General Hislop's conduct was left for future consideration. It was certainly a case that called for, and ought to receive inquiry. If the hon. Chairman, who had acted with great candour and propriety, would state to the court a few words to this effect, it would answer every purpose. There was no intention, he believed, but to satisfy all parties, and this appeared to be the most likely mode of facilitating that object.

The CHAIRMAN—"I stand in a strange predicament, nothing having been offered on the subject."

Mr. HUME—"I wish to withdraw the amendment entirely, and leave it to my learned friend to suggest to you what is necessary on the present occasion."

The CHAIRMAN said, the hon. proprietor had stated, that if any thing had been suggested from behind the bar it would have prevented the occurrence of motion; and it was now intimated, that some words ought to be added to the original motion, containing a cautious reserve with respect to one part of the gallant General's conduct. He was ready to propose an alteration; but, in fact, the credit of the suggestion would remain, under all circumstances, with the other side of the bar, where it had originated. He certainly did not wish to deprive gentlemen of that which they had a right to claim. If the Proprietors could be contented with a few words, which would reserve the subject referred to for future consideration, they might be placed after the proposition now before them. The following reservation might follow the words "terminated in a decisive and important victory,"—"but that this court wishes not to be understood as giving any opinion relative to the surrender of the fort of Talneir."

Mr. R. JACKSON said he was highly gratified at what had just fallen from the chair; at the same time, he must observe, that an amendment to the present motion could only come from his side of the bar, without placing the Directors in the extraordinary predicament of moving an amendment on their own resolution; therefore, if any should be moved, it must come from the Proprietors. It gave him great pleasure to state that he essentially agreed in much of what had fallen from the hon. Chairman, and what had been expressed by several of his colleagues. His own feeling, and that of his hon. friend, coincided in the propriety of the form of words which had been first read from the chair. He cheerfully joined in the expression of gratitude which the victory gained by Sir T. Hislop at Mahidpore so eminently deserved, but they entered their solemn protest against being parties to any approbation, or supposed approbation, of the transaction mentioned in the despatches in which this most unfortunate *prima facie* case against himself was sent forth by the gallant General. Every man who had the honour of Sir T. Hislop and the interest of Company at heart, knew that nothing could so effectually serve both as inquiry. If ever there was a national question, this was one; for let the anomaly appear to politicians who

or foolish, simple or profound, yet so it was, that in law that court (the court of Proprietors) was the sovereign of India! What then would be said of their conduct were they to adopt the motion originally proposed from the chair—a motion of unqualified thanks! They would be considered as approving all the acts of General Hislop without inquiry and without reserve. But the resolution, as now likely to be agreed to, and placed on their records would guard their proceedings against any false interpretation. It was every way consistent with propriety and justice; it gave full praise to General Hislop, but it did not commit the Proprietors. Had they proceeded otherwise, their situation would have been that of thanking this officer indiscriminately for his conduct throughout the whole of the campaign, one act of which being, as appeared from his despatches, the reduction of the fortress of Talneir, and the putting the Governor to an ignominious death.—(Hear! hear!) This was on record; it was a fact that could not be controverted, for the officer himself had declared it. They might be told that it was approved of by the Governor-General, as a military transaction; it might be so, but was that to bind them? certainly not. If all the Governor-Generals that had lived, from the beginning of time, approved the fact as military men, it did not follow that they, as judging and reflecting individuals, were not to examine minutely into such a case, and form their own opinion independently of all other authority. Look to the state and feelings of Europe respecting the late melancholy transaction in America, to which his hon. friend had called their attention, in a speech as perspicuous as it was felt and acknowledged by the court to be temperate and candid, the moderation of which he was anxious to emulate, but which he could not exceed. He could not, indeed take so powerful a hold of the feelings of his auditory as his hon. friend had done; and yet there were twenty topics connected with his subject, calculated to excite the strongest sensations, but he was prevented from touching on them, partly by the admirable address of his hon. friend, who had left no point without its due comment and its proper illustration, and partly from deference to the hon. Chairman, who had rightly observed that a more proper time would arrive for inquiry. It was absolutely necessary, that men in high situations should, for their own honour, be ready to give fair and substantial reasons for every part of their conduct which called forth observation, to state under what authority they had acted, and to declare on what ground they had adopted particular proceedings. Such an explanation they required from General Hislop, before they proceeded to an unqualified vote of thanks, and he conceived the directors themselves must applaud their determination.

The proprietors gave the executive body credit for honourable conduct; and they, in return, expected the Court of Directors to give them credit, for feeling a just desire to appear before the great body of the British public, a wise, a temperate, a consistent assembly. He should presently, in his own justification, read the amendment he had intended to propose, which briefly marked his view of the case. It was perfectly in unison with the few words that had been suggested by the hon. Chairman, though rather more full. The great feature in this case was, that the question was purely national. If the Company constituted only a private society, their resolution would be infinitely less important; but if they, possessing as they did the seal of sovereign authority, approved of this act of Sir T. Hislop, how could any Englishman raise his voice against the murder of Ambrister and Arbuthnot!—how could he call for vengeance against those who had perpetrated that act, who should, without inquiry, vote his unqualified thanks to General Hislop, under whose own hand they had the acknowledgment, that he caused this unfortunate Killedar to be executed without trial, and after he had surrendered himself to the Adjutant General? What would be said in the House of Commons, if they, sitting in that court, were thus to commit the national character? Would that house endure that the Proprietors of East India stock should so indiscreetly apply their deliberative functions, as to stop, as it were, the expression of the higher opinion of the British senate? The national character of America, as his hon. friend had truly said, was now trembling in the balance. If the American government avowed the deed which had excited so much abhorrence, then it was no longer the act of General Jackson, it became theirs; and, in the same manner, if the court of Proprietors approved of this deed in question, then it ceased to be the act of General Hislop, and became that of the East India Company! of them, as well as to the gallant general, character was every thing. It was, indeed, “to man the immediate jewel of their souls!” It was to that he looked to preserve the character of the court unsullied. He trusted that of General Hislop would turn out equally pure; but he thought the court would deservedly call down upon itself the indignation of Europe and their country, if after that the conduct of the Americans, in the case of Arbuthnot and Ambrister, had been so loudly and generally questioned, they at the very time should approve of an action which until explained, must appear equally reprehensible. Of the transaction he wished to say nothing beyond what General Hislop had placed on record. With respect to General Hislop himself, he (Mr. Jackson), more perhaps than any other gentleman in the court, ought to have credit for impartiality, for if there were one man in India who could, more than another, serve and assist an individual deservedly dear to him, whose happiness and whose interest were most near to his heart, that man was General Hislop. The youth to whom he alluded had commenced a career of honour under circumstances the most gratifying. He had, with a few others of his youthful compeers, been deemed worthy of special thanks by men of no mean consideration, men who would not lightly confer such a mark of distinction, by their own immediate commander Major Oliver, by the commander of the district, by the commander-in-chief, and lastly by the governor in council; and yet, notwithstanding the flattering notice, so grateful to an aspirant after fame, he (Mr. Jackson) was confident that his ne-

phew, for of him he spoke, could only advance in the proportion in which he obtained the countenance of Sir Thomas Hislop. His own apparent interest, therefore, were he mean enough to consider it, would have been to have spoken of General Hislop in language as glowing and as unqualified as that which the executive body had adopted in their original resolution. But had he pursued such a path, he would have been, for the first time in his life, preferring private interest to public duty, and considering the fortunes of a relative when he should have been thinking only of the honour and character of the Company. The learned gentleman then read the words of an amendment he had prepared, and which he originally intended to move, to shew its accordance with the suggestions of the hon. Chairman, to whom he should readily give way. The amendment went to acknowledge the distinguished services of General Hislop, particularly for the battle of Mahidpore, in nearly the same words as those of the original resolution proposed by the Directors, but expressly forbearing to offer any opinion upon the painful occurrence on the fall of the fort of Talneir; adding, that looking to the high character of Sir Thomas Hislop, the court could not but flatter itself that further and more detailed statements would satisfy them that no transaction had taken place which compromised the British character, or that of the Indian army, hitherto so eminent for humanity and good faith. He (Mr. Jackson) would most readily, though these words satisfied his judgment, resign them in favour of any other form that might be adopted, provided its tenor and spirit were the same. What he wished was, not to appear ungrateful to a gallant officer, or insensible to his general merits, but at the same time he was anxious not to commit the court to an unqualified vote of approbation. It had been thought wrong in his hon. friend to allude to a private letter; his hon. friend had only alluded to it as a document favorable to General Hislop. He (Mr. Jackson) had seen a similar document, and when he assured the court that it spoke most favourably of this gallant officer, perhaps he should be excused if he noticed it. From this letter it appeared, that no man could express greater regret than he did at putting the unfortunate garrison to the sword; but he could not repress the fury of the soldiers, when they beheld before them the mangled and bleeding bodies of their beloved officers, who had so often led them to victory, pierced by the daggers of those whom they regarded as treacherous! The gallant officer hastened within the walls in order to prevent the slaughter which took place in the fort! Happy indeed would it have been, if in this moment of phrenzy it had occurred to General Hislop, on finding it impossible to restrain his men, that the brave Killedar had been equally unsuccessful with his Arab soldiers, in inducing them to follow his own example and surrender. The Killedar was, Mr. J. believed, Sir Thomas's equal in military rank, and his superior in political station, as governor of the fortress; might he not have also found it beyond his power to control the passions of his troops? If General Hislop could not compel the forces under his authority to obey command, and be merciful, neither perhaps could this unfortunate officer control his turbulent and revengeful Arabs?—(Hear, hear!) If this were so, and it was a fair presumption that it was, he was sorry that some better and gentler course of proceeding was not taken with respect to the Killedar; surely, surely the shades of colour, the tinge of the cheek, could not so alter moral obligation or relative duties! He should conclude, satisfied with the alteration that had been suggested by the hon. Chairman. His end was accomplished, if he could but save the Company from plunging themselves into a situation that never could be retrieved. He disclaimed personal feelings; he was only anxious, for the sake of all parties, that this unfortunate occurrence should be explained. Happy would he be to hear a satisfactory statement of the affair from Sir Thomas Hislop, whom he always considered a gallant, courageous, and skilful soldier.—(Hear, hear!)

Mr. HUME moved that, to the resolution on the table, these words be added: “but that this court wishes to be understood as not giving any opinion relative to the circumstances attendant upon the capture of Talneir, until fuller information respecting it than is afforded by the papers now before the court shall be furnished.”

Mr. S. DIXON seconded the amendment. He was glad to find that the hon. Chairman had suggested a method which he thought would induce the proprietors to vote unanimously.

Mr. INGLIS observed, that the original motion was in his opinion, a very good one, and did not need this addition. Nothing that he had heard during the day, however eloquently urged, had changed his sentiments; nothing had been offered that could induce him to compromise his feelings. Notwithstanding the pithy address of his learned friend, he confessed he was so obstinate, or so dull, that it made no impression whatever on him, and yet he had listened to it with profound attention. The hon. Chairman, in his first address, placed the whole question on fair ground; and he (Mr. Inglis) had hoped that his address would have satisfied the court so far, that the naked question alone, unlogged with any addition, would have been put to the vote and carried. This might have been done, gentlemen reserving in their own minds, if they deemed it necessary, the right to call for investigation at a future period. In arguing the whole of this question, a point of very considerable importance had been omitted, a circumstance that ought, and he trusted would have very considerable weight. Since this transaction had taken place, this gallant officer had been raised to the highest military honour at which any man could arrive: (Hear, hear!) he was decorated with the order of the Bath, and stood before them bearing the mark of his sovereign's approbation.—(Hear, hear!) No trifling service, no doubtful character, could hope for such an honour. Surely, if there had been even a suspicion that he had acted wrong operating in the mind of the Commander-in-chief, so high a dignity would not have been conferred

on him.—(Hear, hear!) Another point which also had not been touched on was this, that General Hislop would be justified by military men for the act he had done, and the opinion of the Commander-in-chief had, in fact, afforded him a justification. He therefore did not think that they had a right by introducing any qualification whatever, to throw a slur or cast any reflection on him, which the proposed addition certainly would. Neither did the censure stop there; it attached itself at the same time to the Commander-in-chief in this country, and to the governor-general in India, the latter having approved of the act, and the former having considered Sir Thomas Hislop, long after the circumstance, worthy of his sovereign's royal favour. Besides, was not this proceeding premature; was it not in some degree prejudging the case, when they knew that, in all probability, it would be brought under the cognizance of the great council of the nation? He was wholly hostile to, and begged to guard himself against any participation respecting the opinions which were urged in order to secure this qualification. He protested against this proceeding altogether, as unjust and ill-timed; and he would say, if Sir Thomas Hislop, a brave and gallant soldier, were not perfectly cognizant of civil duties, still let them recollect his services, and cover his failings with the laurels of his victories. But he (Mr. Inglis) knew a good deal of Gen. Hislop, and he knew that he combined great talents as a military man with very correct ideas of civil government; and he displayed qualities of the latter description which would not have disgraced any man, in a situation when particular coolness and a high degree of circumspection were necessary. Of course gentlemen might adopt any line of conduct they pleased, but he would not be bound by the resolution, as it was proposed to stand, further than as one of the Court of Directors: his opinion was decidedly opposed to it.

Mr. ELPHINSTONE said, he could not bring himself to join with the court in this amendment; it was perhaps as moderate as it could be, but still he could not concur in it. Gen. Hislop, whenever he came home, must himself apply for a court of inquiry; he could not set down under the imputations which had been thrown out against him: he would therefore put it to the honour and candour of gentlemen to consider whether this amendment, which evidently insinuated something against Gen. Hislop, did not prejudice the question; did not give a side-wind opinion on a question which would be agitated else-where? General Hislop must have his conduct inquired into; he could not, even if he wished it, avoid examination: but he was convinced that gallant officer would, at the proper time, court, and not shrink from it. Surely, observed the hon. Directors, gentlemen could not have read the original notion. It was directed solely to General Hislop's military achievement, and therefore rendered this amendment unnecessary. If they meant to insist on it, he felt, as a conscientious man, that he must withhold his vote.

Mr. HUME said, no man in that court paid more respect than he did to General Hislop. He knew many individuals, friends of his own, who revered that gallant officer, therefore he would be the last man to insinuate any thing prejudicial to his fame or painful to his feelings. But the objections raised by the hon. Directors were not substantial. Those who proposed the amendment did in fact completely meet the views of the executive body. They did not criminate General Hislop, but they left the matter open for inquiry. It was a prudent course, which they avoided committing themselves rashly and hastily; and on the *prima facie* shewing of the General himself, every Proprietor ought to concur in it.

The motion of the thanks was then put from the chair, and carried in this its amended form:

"Resolved, that the thanks of this court be presented to Lieut. General Sir T. Hislop, Bart. G. C. B. for his distinguished and successful services during the late campaign in India, and particularly in the battle of Mhaidpore, fought on the 21st of Dec. 1817, by the forces under his immediate command, against the army of Mullar Row Holkar, which terminated in a decisive and important victory.

"But that this court wishes to be understood as not giving any opinion relative to the circumstances attendant upon the capture of Talneir, until fuller information respecting it, than is afforded by the papers now before the court, shall be furnished."

## Army Affairs.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

Notwithstanding that I am fully aware how uninteresting this discussion must be to all but military men; yet as they form a considerable proportion of your readers, and as it has not, so far, taken up more than a few columns of your Journal, I am disposed to think that you will not yet put a stop to it, in the summary manner of Sir Roger de Coverly, nor in deference to that *practically* inclined SOLDIER OF FORTUNE, whose brisk, but *halloo*, production I have just done perusing. You seem to have an interest in the welfare of the Bengal Army, which has too much the appearance of sincerity to be feigned, and as I know your Journal always gets into the interior of Government House, (whose inmates are not the least anxious, of all concerned, regarding whatever may tend to benefit us,) I feel more induced to continue the subject than I confess I could possibly be, by the perusal of the above alluded-to, Epistle.

Before I enter into the *pith* of the business, however, I must take up a few lines in correcting a mistake into which both of my Opponents have very unaccountably fallen; not that if I actually were, what they erroneously and *groundlessly* suppose me to be, I should be ashamed to own it, but simply because I have no wish to be taken for a different character to what I really am. How come they to think me AN OFFICER OF THE OLD SCHOOL? Because I have a sort of antipathy to be over-topped (chance must decide how often!) by my juniors. They imagine because I object to this *one* innovation, I must needs be an enemy to *every thing* in the shape of improvement, although in the course of the Letter, which I took the liberty of addressing to Lord Hastings, I proposed several very material innovations. This one of Brevet Rank did not *originate* in that Letter; it is merely *recorded* there, and I repeat that till arguments are adduced in its favor differing more than those of my Opponents do, from what might be expected from a couple of knights-errant, I must still continue to think of it as I have done from the beginning.

If this SOLDIER OF CHANCE can get any third person to say, that he has answered (much less confuted) a word of my Reply to his NEW SCHOOL LEADER, I shall be very much astonished; but if he cannot, then I must tell him that his Letter seems to have been written by *chance* too, or he must, as he went on, have hit upon something in the direct line of the Question.

He regrets (kind hearted soul!) my having published to the world that I conceive discontent and jealousy could not fail to attend upon this kind of supercession; and he says, that by appealing to human nature, if they could, I am slandering a whole race! He also says that a military man (meaning your humble servant) should be the last to assert that the just reward of merit could *awaken* any other feeling than that of emulative admiration. This is a fine sentence, and seems to have had more pains bestowed on its construction, than on its strength of argument; for I can assure him, that I have not yet asserted that any ill effects will ensue from merit's being *justly* rewarded, and that I shall be the very last to make any such assertion.

On reading this, I dare say he will snatch up my former Letter, to see if I have made any such statement, and in the event of his so doing, I shall feel obliged by his looking over it with a little more attention than it is evident he has yet done. If he do, I think he will find that my apprehensions are founded chiefly on *interest*, at some future period, destroying the salutary effects of which the supporters of this rank intend it to be productive. We all know that interest has more sway in this service than in any other, and if even the Brevet Rank be introduced, I prophecy, that before twenty years shall have elapsed, subsequent to its introduction, the *merit* of an Aid-de-Camp will be rewarded by it, as often as that of a fighting Officer.

Suppose we ever get such another Governor General as the late Lord Minto, (I must disturb the dead to benefit the living,) who would have given the best appointment in India to have scoured half a dozen votes in a particular county, will any one say that merit will *then* be impartially considered? and when I know that there are many Commanding Officers who would, for their own benefit, so far accord with the views of a Governor General or Commander in Chief, as to extol more than they ought to do, any young Officer who, they might be given to understand, had great interest, and to serve whom an opportunity was looked for; as long, I say, as I know this, I shall always look with a jealous eye upon the Brevet Rank.

Another thing to be considered (and which my Opponents seem to have lost sight of—if ever they had it in view) is this, can an Officer only serve his country in the field of action? Can he not do it as much service by great ability, in a political line, or in a Staff situation of importance—say as Secretary to Government, Adjutant or Commissary General, or even in a lower capacity—as another can, by great valour against an enemy? He can undoubtedly;—and how is *he* to be rewarded? He must be eligible to this Brevet reward, or else see himself passed over by the performers of actions more brilliant, perhaps than his own, but probably not half so solidly beneficial to the State.

Brevet Rank, then, must be thrown open to a great number of competitors, and who is to be the judge of the merits of those I have mentioned? Who but the Governor General and Commander in Chief? Will their merits be granted on the field of action, by the Officers assembling round the Hero, and uniting in extolling his bravery and qualifications? as the SOLDIER OF FORTUNE, in a most elaborate sentence, expresses it. Or if a Staff Officer were to be so judged, does any one suppose that the opinions of Battalion Officers assembled on the field

at the close of a hard fought day," would influence the Government in bestowing its rewards.

Hitherto I have never known those kind of opinions possess such great influence, but perhaps there may be a clause in the Brevet Regulations, ordering the local authorities to be guided by this universal expression of warm admiration, which the writer himself says would "at any other moment appear out of all proportion." "Can such feelings as these (he asks) be perverted?" "Can patronage abuse them?" "No!"—"The generous and unerring meed of applause is conferred by the accordant suffrage and acclaim of our brothers in arms"—and thus he runs on "stringing one extravagance upon another"—till he saves me the trouble of confuting him, by kindly doing it himself—for he says that this "unerring meed" would, in cooler moments, be thought quite out of proportion to the action on which it was conferred;—and indeed I agree with him in the inference which his mention of such disproportion gives rise to, that immediately after a battle, when officers are elate with victory, and pleased with every thing, is not the most likely moment in which to expect a dispassionate and proportionate judgment.

He says again, that the most brilliant exploits will not stand the test of a subsequent cool investigation; and yet he will have such exploits rewarded in the heat of the moment—although confessedly unworthy of it! If that be his way of thinking, I sincerely trust that fortune (on whom, he tells us, all his reliance is placed—no great compliment, by the bye, to his other qualifications!) may keep him out of the reach of any important command till years and experience shall have given him that discretion, in which he now appears to be lamentably deficient. He is a good deal mistaken though, in saying that no action will escape "dwindling into nothing" on a cool investigation being bestowed upon it; for in your Journal of to-day, and close to his own effusion, there is a "damning proof" of the unsoundness of his theory, in a most clear, true, well-merited, and able detail of Fitzgerald's action, which like the diamond, if broken into a thousand pieces, each piece will emit proportionate lustre. It strikes me, judging from the strain of his arguments, that this SOLDIER OF FORTUNE would be greatly in love with any arrangement which might tend to introduce the former rank of *Knights Bannetts*—who had always their honors showered upon them on the "hard fought field," and at the will of the General.

He goes on with a great deal of wisdom and sagacity to tell us how the introduction of Brevet Rank would serve to correct the effects of the regular supercession; by enabling a Commanding Officer to send some unlucky wight upon a detached duty, where he might have an opportunity of distinguishing himself and so get his rank equalized again.

Here he flies off as usual without any consideration or apparent knowledge of the undoubted rules of the service; for the Commanding Officer of a Corps must detach Officers agreeably to a regular roster, and he who commands a Division must adopt the same rule of detaching Battalions, &c. When I say he *must*, I don't wish to be understood to assert that he *daren't* do an act of injustice, by overlooking the first for duty, but merely that such is the immemorial usage of the Army, and that I can hardly figure to myself any Commanding Officer being guilty of so disgracing and indelicate an act as to pass over him whose regular turn it is for the purpose of sending another upon a dangerous service. But he says, "suppose a Commandant did select a particular friend," as *primus inter pares*; (if his Latin hasn't led him into a bull!) "still there is nothing more in such a transaction than the just and legitimate exercise of that prerogative, which must for ever attach to executive power." And does he really think there would be nothing in such a transaction? no hardship at all? If he and I were exactly equal in point of merit, I should think it a very great hardship if he were selected for promotion, merely because he happened to be a *personal friend* of the Commanding Officer; and if he could patiently brook similar treatment, those military feelings about which he is so eloquent, must be considerably deadened in his breast.

Now as to pecuniary reward, I find that either through a want of attention or candour, in the SOLDIER OF FORTUNE, I am again misunderstood. Have I ever asserted that hope of prize-money was an incentive, or that pecuniary reward stimulated our Officers to do their duty? I never said more than that it did not make them worse, or more backward than usual; but if I had said so, perhaps I should not have been so greatly mistaken as my chivalrous Opponent imagines. I have been at the plunder of both towns and camps before now, and the Officers when the fighting was over seemed to me, (all the young active hands at least,) just as eager as the sepoy were to search for hidden wealth; and if my worthy Friend is really ignorant of this propensity, the only

inference that I can draw from such a want of knowledge is, that he has never seen a great deal of hard service.

I shall now only add to the length of this Reply by repeating that as long as there are other, and better methods of rewarding merit, than the one now under discussion, it is my firm opinion that they should be adopted in preference to it.

Calcutta, September 2, 1819.

A FRIEND TO THE ARMY.

### Domestic Economy.

"The lawyer's made your needy rogues pursue,  
"The solemn Doctor first, and then the Priest;  
"Each claims his fee, then eats your dinner too  
"And thus we generous gentlefolks are fleeced."—ANON.

To the Editor of the Calcutta Journal.

SIR,

As you seem to take notice of every thing, I wish you would let me have the honor of appearing in your Journal. I find on my return from England that the Service is not so good as it used to be, and that I shall not be able to make sufficient fortunes for my girls or provide for my boys in a manner suitable to their rank. The low interest my husband gets for his money, and the enhanced price of every article in the bazar, prevents my remitting as formerly the allowances of my situation; and I should be very much obliged to you, to propose some remedies for an evil which Statesmen say has been, and daily is increasing.

I have proposed to my husband to make these black-fellows lower the price of every thing in the bazar, but he says it would not answer the purpose, but defeat the end I propose. This, Sir, is not what I want; but I cannot see how it could defeat my end, if I could get twenty fowls instead of five for a rupee, or two maunds of rice instead of twenty seers! However, you know, Sir, there is no talking to these husbands, and though I do not think he ought to give the Doctor more than 100, or 200 rupees for his annual attendance, which would satisfy most of his profession in England, yet he said that he could not give less than 450, or 400 rupees, as men in his situation seldom gave so little, and that no civil station would have a Doctor, if the Civilians did not make his allowance equal to his Army pay.

Now, Sir, this was really too much to bear, and I therefore vowed if he gave that sum I would never speak to him again, or save another rupee for him, by which I have succeeded pretty well; indeed much better than I expected, for as he would not give less, we have got off for nothing (except a dinner or two) this year at least. I cannot hope to do quite so well hereafter, as I expect an increase to my family, but as I shall not call upon him unless in danger, I have yet hopes of escaping this expence in a great measure for some time to come, for I am not sickly, Sir, and he must attend my husband for nothing.

The fees of the Clergy are another great drawback to my saving, and now that I have made my husband give up the expence of frequent parties, am I to spend all I can save in this way, by the drawbacks I have mentioned? If you can advise me how to remedy these growing evils, I shall indeed, Sir, be much obliged to you, for I have advised my husband to lend our money to the natives at a higher interest, or to let me have the management of it, but all to no purpose. As you are a bachelor (at least I hope so), I am sure you will not follow his example by telling me that we must be just to others before we consider ourselves. I am sure nobody thinks of this in England, and every body has heard that there is no such thing as justice to be met with in hot climates.

The only comfort I have is, that if it is to be had, it will not cost me more than the piece of stamp paper, but even that is something in these times, and as I am anxious to make a little display at home, and to bring my girls well into the world, you will not, I fancy, think lightly of this Letter.

I am, dear Mr. Editor, your's faithfully,

GOODY THRIFTY.

Midnapore, Aug. 28.

P. S.—I have just seen the Letter of your "DISTANT SUBSCRIBER," but that slow method of making money does not suit my ideas, for I can keep it well enough when I have it, therefore I only wait to know how to increase it and to prevent my husband from giving where there is no occasion for it.

2nd P. S.—People now talk of a famine, in which case I shall turn off all the servants I can, and indeed will only keep those who have no families, and will consent to serve for lower wages. It is an ill wind, Mr. Editor, that blows no body good.

G. T.

## Medical.

Letter addressed to Dr. Tytler, of Allahabad, by Lieut.  
W. H. Sleeman:

DEAR TYTLER,

In some Persian memoirs, relating to the history of Oude, which I have lately had occasion to peruse, I met with the following passage in one written by Shekh Fyz Buksh, formerly in the service of Shooja-ood-Dowla, and since employed by his widow, and her two successive ministers, in situations of the highest credit and responsibility. He now resides at Fyzabad, and should you wish to put any questions to him on the subject, I can venture to assure you, from an intimate knowledge of the man, that he will answer them with great candour and ability.

"Early in the year 1818, the atmosphere of Lucknow became impregnated with the latent seeds of a pestilential disease, which raged with so much fury, that hundreds of dead bodies were daily carried from every street of the city. It was remarked, that every one who ate rice at night, vomited it forth undigested in the morning, and almost instantly expired. From Lucknow it extended itself through all the towns and villages on the road, killing thousands in its way, till it entered the city of Fyzabad, where more than two thousand were swept away in its fury."

I cannot pretend to anticipate what he may say in answer to your questions; but his son, who was in Lucknow at the time, tells me 'that some boat loads of poisonous rice were brought to the city from the eastward—that the people who ate of it were soon after attacked by the disease, and expired in a few hours—that a part of the rice was carried to Fyzabad for sale, and that the disease followed in its train, destroying a great part of the inhabitants of every village through which it passed—that every one believed the disease to have originated in this poisonous rice, but many supposed it to have subsequently become contagious, as numbers had been known to die of it, who had abstained entirely from this species of food.'

The inhabitants of Lucknow avoided rice as poison, the price of the commodity fell, and the rage of the disease began to subside. The use of it, as food, was prohibited by proclamation through the streets of the city; but the fears of the people required no aid from legislative wisdom. Rice was in consequence comparatively cheap—that brought from the eastward had disappeared, and the fear of death soon began to yield to considerations of economy. Predestination resumed the seat from which fear had driven her. 'Rice' it was said 'could only be an instrument in the hands of Providence—if that failed, another would be provided, probably in the shape of wheat or barley!'

I tell you merely what were the opinions of the natives and the alleged facts on which they were grounded, since it is your object, as a philosopher, to combine the scattered materials which the observations and conjectures of others may furnish.

Whether rice, from any accident of climate, soil, or season, be or be not the physical cause of the disease, many people of great ability and equal candour, acknowledge themselves yet unable to judge, from the facts which have been submitted to the public. 'We know nothing of physical causes' says Dugald Stewart 'but that they are the constant forerunners and signs of certain natural events; and few are yet prepared to say, that eating a certain kind of rice, is the constant forerunner of a certain disease, which the faculty term "Cholera Morbus," and may therefore be considered its infallible antecedent; yet there is not an honest man, whose feelings have been interested in the question, that does not respect the ability and admire the industry with which you continue to pursue the investigation.

They look forward with the hope that a more enlarged experience will enable you to lay open to the conviction of the applauding world, the cause of this dreadful disease, stripped of all those accidental circumstances with which it may have been casually associated.

Purtabghur,

Yours very faithfully,

August 20, 1819.

W. H. SLEEMAN.

I ought not to have concluded my letter without acquainting you that the part of the memoir which I have extracted, was written before the author had heard of the importation of rice from the eastward. He believed the disease too rinate in the atmosphere, and to be aggravated by rice. The people did not believe all rice to be poisonous, but the merchants who had purchased the imported grain at a very low price, were suspected of mixing it with the rice of the country; and it is even supposed now to be distributed about in a small quantities by

those who have not kept it concealed. The grain is said to have been large and yellow, and the people who use rice (the respectable order, have the yellow grains carefully picked out.

You are at liberty to send this to the Paper with my name attached, on condition that you send the whole; adding any remark you please in your own name.

Yours truly,

W. R. SLEEMAN.

*Indian Literature.*—We learn that the Fourth Part of Colonel Franklin's Essay on Palibothra, is about to be sent home from hence immediately for publication, and as Researches on Indian Antiquities have fallen into so much langour, (excepting some of the able Papers in the late Volume of the Transactions of the Bombay Literary Society,) we shall be the more impatient for the appearance of this work to complete the series of interesting Essays to which it belongs.

We understand that the venerable and indefatigable Author of the work is now engaged on an Essay on the Jaynes, for which he is furnished with an abundance of highly curious and interesting materials, which when embodied and arranged cannot fail to be highly acceptable to the literary world.

*Patna.*—A Letter from this station, dated August 25th, 1819, informs us that the first division of the 11th Dragoons had reached thus far on their way, and were to proceed to Dinapore on the following day. It appears that they had made rapid progress up the river from the prevalence of strong easterly winds. At Monghyr, a severe gale was experienced from that quarter, in the violence of which three boats were upset and two Europeans drowned, while four other men were so exhausted by fatigue and exposure on this occasion as to have died shortly afterwards.

*Kaira.*—The following is an Extract of a Letter dated Kaira, 24th July, 1819.

"The last post from Bombay was dated the 7th instant, so that we have 18 posts due: you must have had an immense fall of rain to the southward, which must have caused that delay of the post here—We had last night about 8 o'clock a great fall of rain accompanied with lightning and thunder, the lightning killed a Dragon of the 17th Regiment and scorched two others that were with him. About half past ten, there was a slight shock of an Earthquake."

*Sydney.*—The following is an article from this quarter, which we omitted in our last, dated May 22, 1819.

From a person, in whose veracity we place the greatest reliance, we learn that a month ago a private of the Royal Veteran Company was bit by a snake in a pasturage adjoining Liverpool, where he was quartered. Struck with instant horror, and the certainty of a speedy dissolution, the sufferer fell instantly into a state of hopelessness and almost stupor; his body began to swell in a few minutes, and the first of his comrades who visited him, gave him over as lost.—In the barrack there happened at the time to be an old native man, who immediately repaired to his assistance. From a bark he stripped a few shreds, and combining them into a strong ligature, applied it a little above the affected part, the bite being above the ankle. He applied the ligature with such excessive strictness, that the patient supposed his leg had been taken off. This done, the native proceeded in rubbing the leg downwards with no less violence for some minutes; and then taking away with a knife only as much of the skin as the punctures were apparent on, he applied his lips to the wounded part, and took away by suction a quantity of coagulated matter; then pronounced the cure, desiring their generated patient to go to his barrack, and keep himself quiet. It proved effectual; for the man now lives, and in gratitude to his black physician gave him all he was possessed of, being to the value of about £5 sterling.

## Pitratin's Island.

—We have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of an enclosure for Fifty Rs. (50) from a Correspondent at Kotguri, on account of these Islanders—"in whose fate" he adds "we were all here highly interested by your feeling and judicious appeal."

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We have received the Letter of ELLORA, and as the cause of his complaint is now removed, he will readily waive his claim to its insertion. We shall be at all times very happy to receive from him any contributions on the subjects he proposes, as we desire to enrich our columns as much as possible with topics of the nature he offers.

**Military.****GENERAL ORDERS.**

*Head-quarters, Calcutta; August 25, 1819.*

The Most Noble the Commander in Chief in India is pleased to make the following appointment, until the pleasure of His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty shall be made known.

*67th Foot*:—Alexander Pilford, Gentleman, to be Ensign without purchase, vice McDonald, promoted 1st April 1819.

*Head-quarters, Calcutta; August 31, 1819.*

His Royal Highness the Prince Regent has been pleased in the name and on the behalf of His Majesty, to make the following promotions and appointment:—

*8th Light Dragoons*:—Cornet Henry Ferguson, from the 9th Light Dragoons, to be Lieutenant by purchase, vice Fraser, promoted, 25th February 1819.

*21st Light Dragoons*:—Troop Quarter Master Miller Blair, to be Regimental Quarter Master, vice Fortesquien, deceased, 21st January 1819.

*14th Foot*:—Captain Gerald Rochfort, from the half-pay of the Regiment, to be Captain of a Company, vice Thomas Dunn, who exchanges receiving the difference, 18th February 1819.

By Order of the Most Noble the Commander in Chief,

THOMAS M'MAHON, Colonel, A. G.

**Domestic Occurrences.****MARRIAGE.**

At Bombay, on the 4th August, by the Reverend Samuel Payne, Cornet Potts of His Majesty's 17th Light Dragoons, to Miss Margaret Hewitt, youngest daughter of Marmaduke Hewitt, Esq. of Beverley, Yorkshire.

**BIRTHS.**

On the 31st August, Mrs. W. Wallis, of a Son:

At Bombay, on the 6th August, the Lady of Lieutenant Stevenson, Deputy Commissary of Stores at the Presidency, of a Daughter.

**DEATHS.**

On the 2d instant, Mrs. Anne Grant, widow of the late Major P. L. Grant, aged 28 years.

At Mahim, on the 5th August, the Lady of Major Mealy, commanding that Station.

At Surat, on the 30th July, in the 47th year of his age, Jacobs Johannes, Esq. a respectable Armenian merchant, and the eldest Son of the late Johannes Gregory, Esq.

At Bhowndy, on the 1st August, John Stephenson, Esq. Assistant Surgeon on the Bombay establishment, much respected by all who knew him.

**Commercial Reports.**

A Letter from Leeds of the 8th of April says, I am sorry to have to state, that the manufacturers keep discharging their workmen, and stinting those they keep on to less than one-half their usual quantity of work. Trade never was known to be more flat; nor is there any prospect of the least improvement, but vice versa. There cannot be a more convincing proof of the wretched state of the woollen trade, than the paucity of business that is now transacted in the extensive Cloth-halls of this town. These buildings are opened every Tuesday and Saturday; but the first Tuesday in the month has always been calculated on as the day of the greatest business; and in the Coloured Cloth-hall, as many as twenty thousand pieces have been sold on that day, whereas, on Tuesday last, not more than seventy pieces were disposed of. It is therefore quite evident, that the home markets are as completely overstocked as the foreign. The consequence of this state of things is, that many hundreds of the small master clothiers are nearly as much distressed as their workmen, being compelled to part with their goods at almost any price, in order to meet the pressing demands of their woolstaplers, who, in consequence of having sustained many heavy losses, are become uncommonly keen and inexorable in enforcing payment of their claims. All the woolstaplers and merchants declare, that they never knew so little business doing, within their recollection, as at the present season; nor was there ever a greater scarcity of cash.

**Passengers.**

*Passengers arrived at Bombay on the Herefordshire.*

Mr. Wm. Joseph Commine, Assistant Surgeon; Mr. George Moore, Cadet; Mr. Thomas Parr, Cadet; Mr. Thomas C. Bridger, Volunteer for Bombay Marine.

**Shipping Intelligence.****BOMBAY ARRIVALS.**

Aug.	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	From Whence	Left
1	Futtay Salam	Arab	Adam Adjee	Mocha	July 17
4	Bombay	British	A. Hamilton	St. Helena	June 11
4	Herefordshire	British	Wm. Hope	St. Helena	—

**Nautical Notices.**

*Extract from the Feuille Hebdomadaire, of the Isle of Bourbon, dated St. Denis, May 10.*

Yesterday, at seven o'clock in the evening, the English brig Hope, Captain Abel Penn, of 180 tons burthen, which sailed from the Mauritius on the 7th current, was wrecked at the Pointe des Jardins—the weather wore a threatening appearance, and the swell of the sea was already so great as to occasion the most serious apprehensions for the safety of the vessel. The Governor immediately ordered the promptest assistance in the power of the harbour to be given: and instantly, notwithstanding the dangers of a very boisterous sea, four Pirogues of the Marine yard, pushed off to the assistance of the wreck.

The Hope appeared to be in equilibrium on the summit of the Reefs bordering the shore, and her sails being spread to a land breeze which then blew pretty fresh, stayed her in a position favorable for enabling her to get over the reefs had it been possible to lighten her stern, which however was too firmly bedded in the coral. The pirogues that left the shore, arrived near the vessel by dint of rowing, but could not reach her, owing to the breakers which precluded all approach to her.

This afflicting spectacle had attracted to the beach a considerable number of spectators, amongst whom several were so courageous as to precipitate themselves into the waves and swim towards the wreck for the purpose of opening a communication between the vessel and the shore. The sea rolling her foaming billows on the strand, occasioned so stunning a noise as to render it impossible to hear the cries of the unfortunate persons on board, calling for succour. Yet our generous Creoles, followed by some of the Military workmen, braved the almost invincible opposition of the sea and wind, and saw their efforts crowned with some success.

Their perilous trips to the Hope continued from night until the next morning; but, notwithstanding all their efforts, she became a prey to the waves, and broken up and dismantled as she was, it became necessary to abandon her. Captain Penn however did not leave her until the last moment, and when he was at length carried ashore on part of the wreck of his vessel, he was received with all the care and attention his situation required. Captain Penn had some time before taken leave of his wife and child, whom he had entrusted to one of his boats, but this imprudent precaution might have cost them their lives had not a fishing boat belonging to Edeolon, hazarded fresh dangers to save these two beings from certain death. They were fortunately landed and received by M. de Bauvergere and all his family, who bestowed on them the most compassionate care.

The officers and crew of the Hope were brought off by our young men by whom they were conducted to the Royal Hospital, where beds and cordials had been previously prepared for them. The second officer, a young man of 18 years of age, was taken up lifeless, all the succour of Medical aid was exerted to restore him to life, and the method recommended by Plat resorted to, but all these efforts were unavailing. Two of the crew are said to be drowned.

Captain Penn having abandoned his vessel, the Marine Administration is occupied in collecting the wreck, conformably to the Royal Ordonnances.

The Hope had a crew of nineteen men, three Europeans and sixteen Lascars, she was in ballast, and consigned to Mr. Roux of St. Denis, where she was to have taken a cargo of Cloves. The clouds by which the shore was covered, and the distant appearance of the Dock works seeming to the Captain to be the hulls and masts of shipping, in which error he was confirmed by the watches he had set; it was only on finding by his soundings (which he constantly took) that he was in ten fathoms water, that he attempted to tack; and this manoeuvre brought him upon the reefs.

Captain Greirson, of the English ship Nelly, an intrepid swimmer, performed three trips to the wrecked Ship.

Tamby, formerly one of the chiefs of the Fisheries, particularly distinguished himself by his courageous self devotion. It was Tamby that saved Captain Penn's wife and child at the moment of the boat, in which they were, getting amongst the breakers: we regret that we are not able to mention the names of all the young men that shared these perils; and shall for the present content ourselves with naming the Son of M. de Vauquelin, Captain of the Marine Military workmen, who swam to the relief of the shipwrecked.

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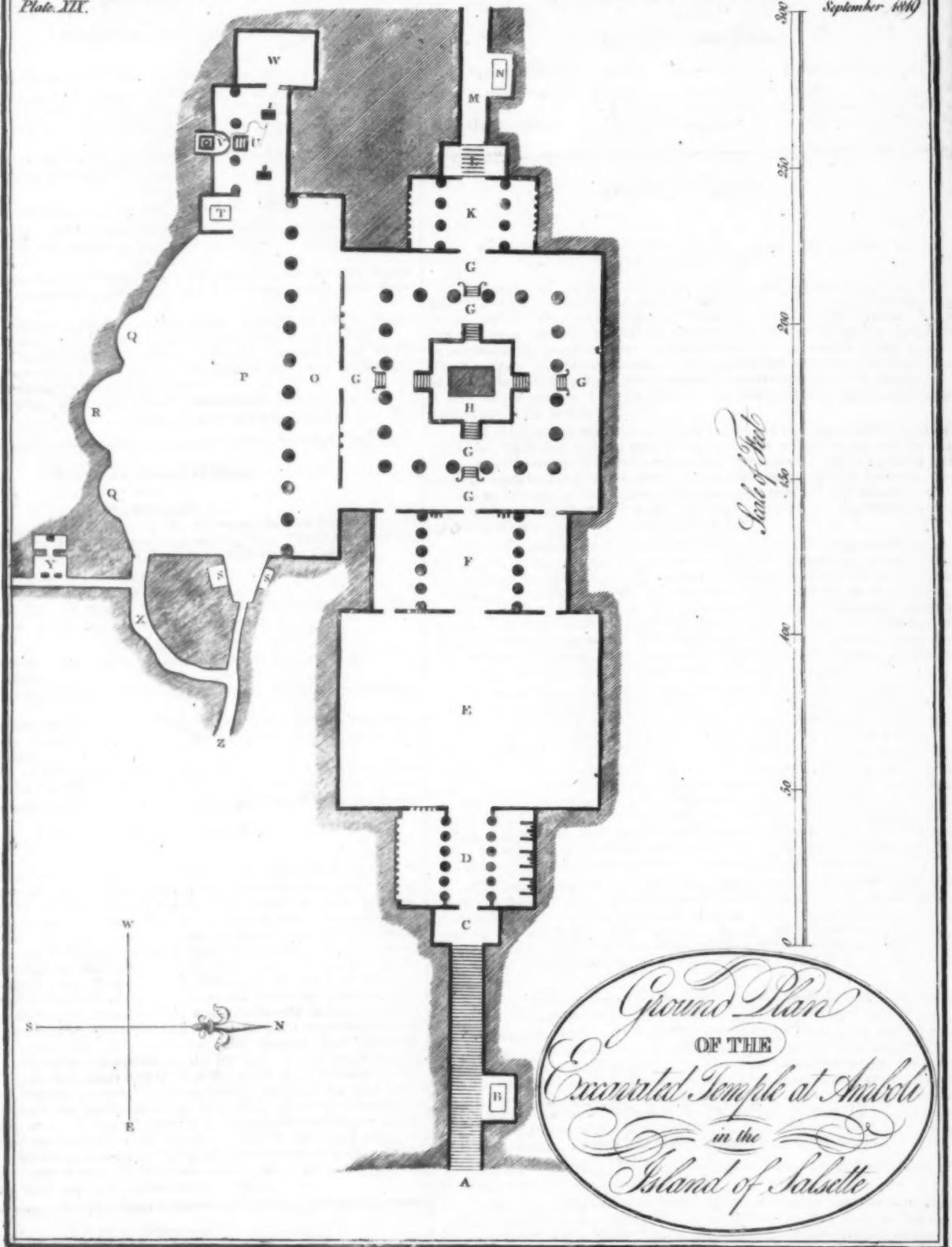
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Plate. XIX.

September 1880



Engraved for the Calcutta Journal.



Fig. I.



from the  
Island of Sumatra  
in the  
Island of Sumatra

Fig. II.



Fig. III.



Fig. IV.



